

AREA: Cathedral Hill

MAGI NO.: 0421415808

Address: 320 Cathedral Street
Current Name: Archdiocesan Center

Block: 579 Lot: 13-14 Lot size: 150 ft. x 133 ft.
Height: 8 Materials: Marble and glass
Condition: Good Owner: R.C. Archbishop of Baltimore
Use: Religion Accessible: Yes, restricted
Designation: Liber/Folio: JFC 1010/428



Historic Name:
Date: 1965
Architect/Builder:
Style (if appropriate): Modern

Description:

Large plate glass windows on the first floor flank a recessed entrance at the northeast corner. The non-windowed wall surface of the first story is faced with polished gray granite. Above a flat panel course of marble are the main office floors which have regularly-spaced flat plane windows with single panes. The wall surface on these floors is faced with rectangular marble panels forming vertical piers between the windows. A recessed 8th floor with an overhang provides an outdoor terrace outside the employees' lounge. Mechanical systems also occupy this level. The flat roof is faced with marble panels. Facing Mulberry Street and adjoining the office section is a one-story auditorium building with a set-back entrance.

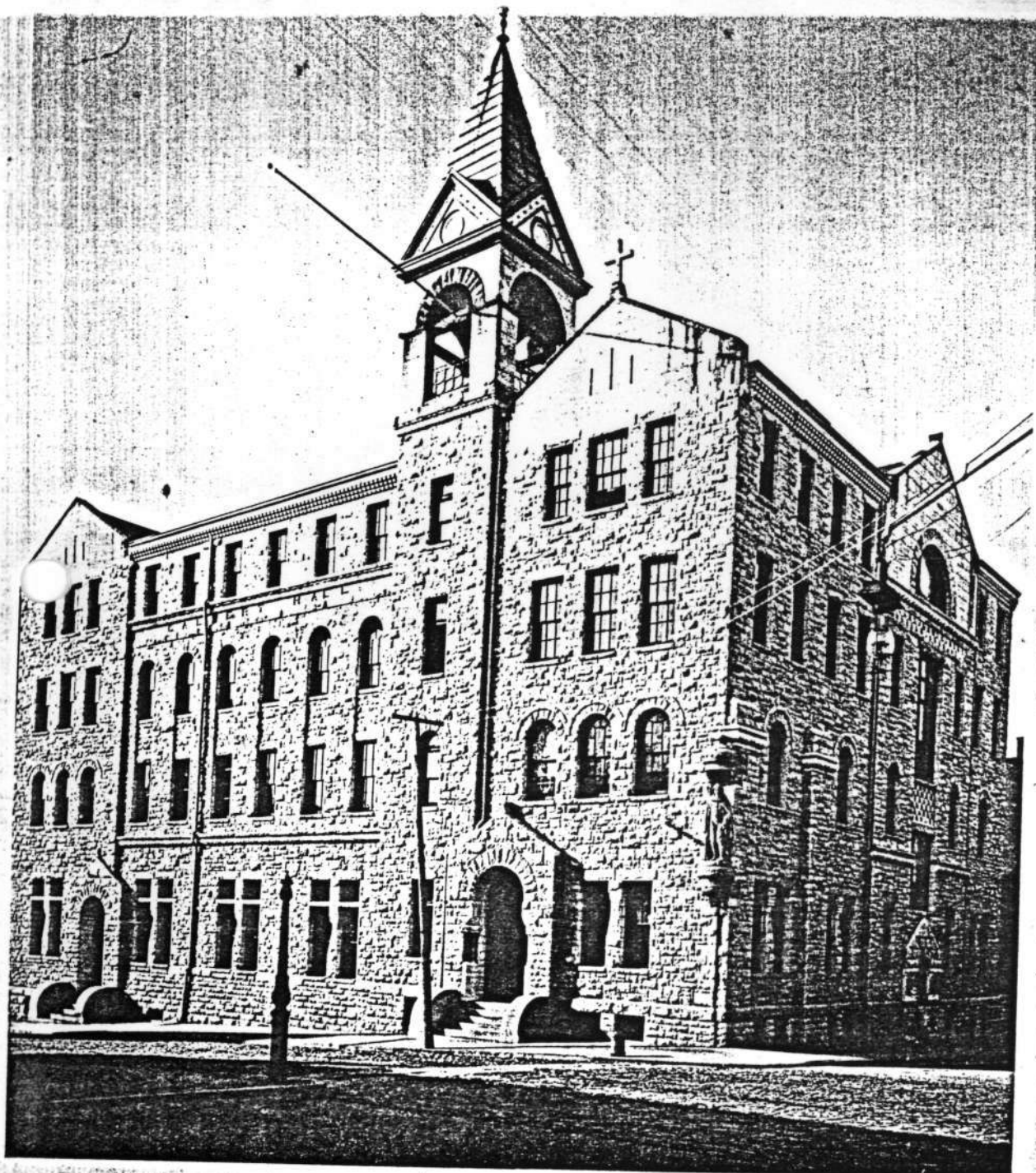
Significance:

Area: education

Level: local

The Archdiocesan Center is on the site of two institutions which were important in both secular and parochial education in Baltimore. From 1811 to 1830, with intermittent closings, it was the location of the Baltimore College, chartered by the State Assembly in 1804. It was merged with the University of Maryland in 1830, serving as the forerunner of the arts and sciences faculty. In 1890, the second building of Calvert Hall College was erected on the site. A massive limestone structure designed by Thomas C. Kennedy, this building survived until the early 1960's when it was demolished for the construction of the Archdiocesan Center. Calvert Hall is the oldest Catholic high school for boys in Baltimore and was the first school in the United States opened by the Christian Brothers. The first Calvert Hall building was at 16 West Saratoga Street. (See B-2178.) The area now occupied by the Center also includes the lot formerly occupied by the Knights of Columbus Hall, 109 West Mulberry Street, which was purchased by Calvert Hall in 1924. Calvert Hall is now located in Towson.

Sources: CHAP files; Baltimore News-Post 1-6-56
EP Md. Dept. VF (Calvert Hall)
Surveyor and Date: Janet Davis, February 1985



CALVERT HALL.

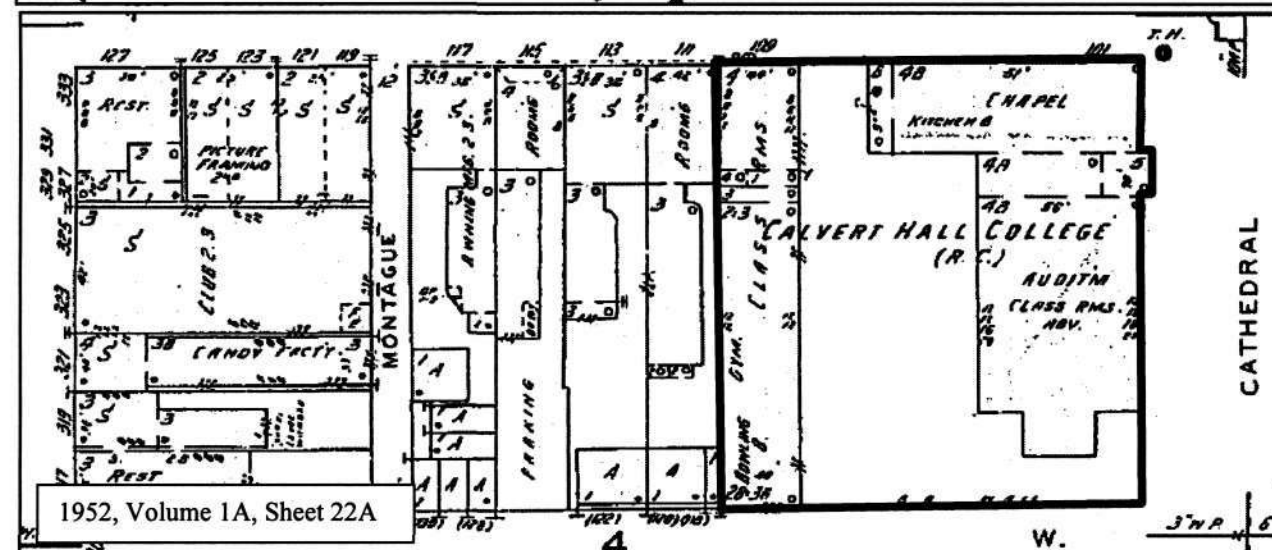
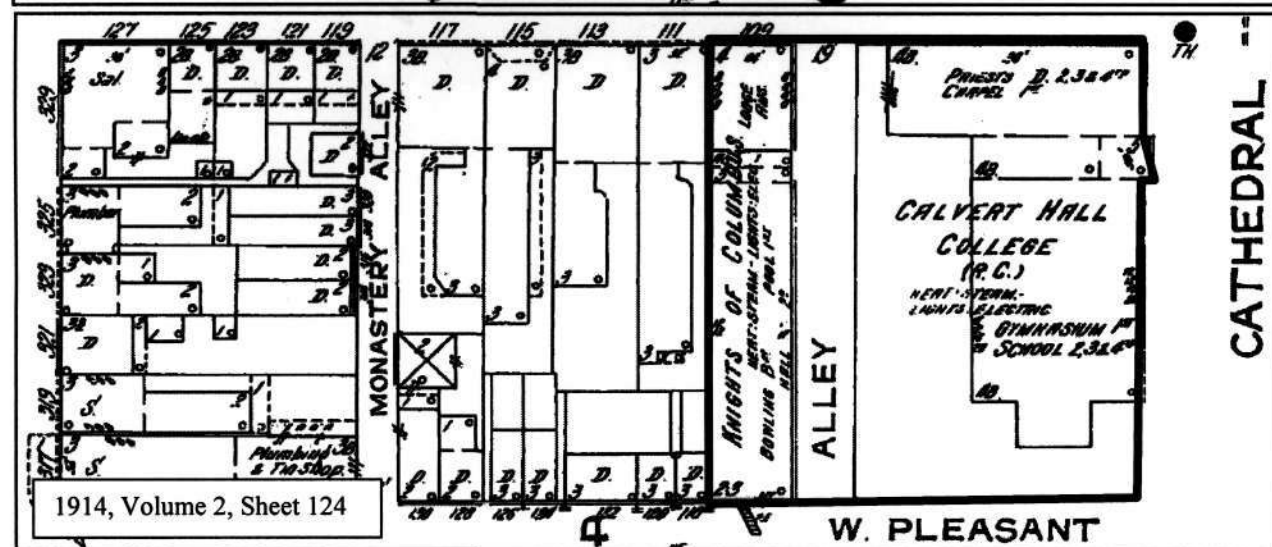
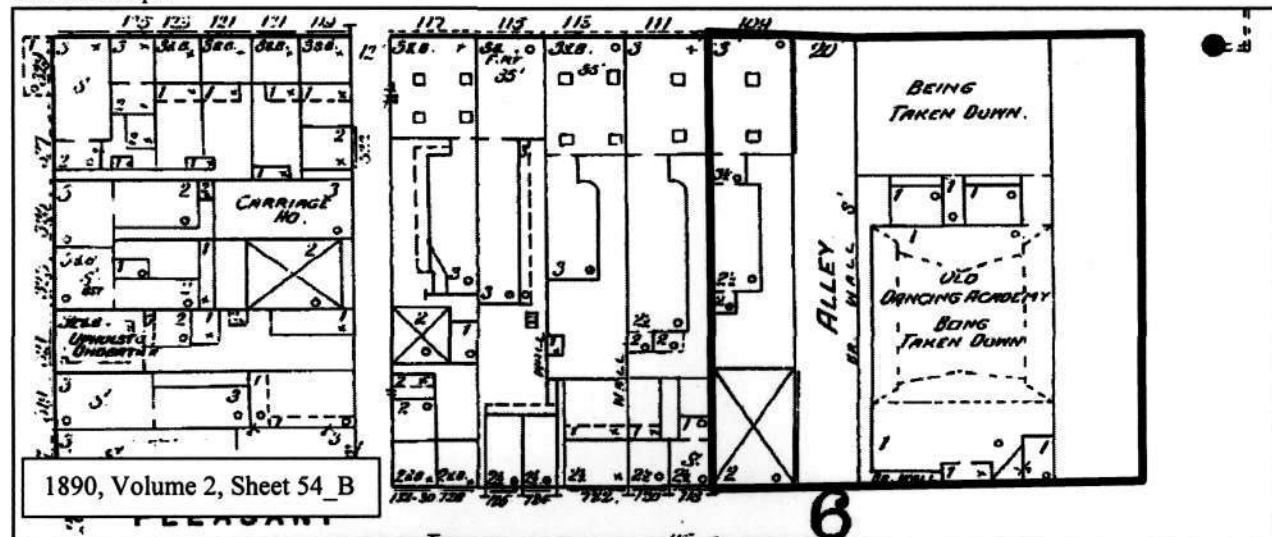
Archdiocesan Center B-2141
Calvert Hall: Previous Bldg.
on site
Art Work of Balto. (1893)

B-2141

Archdiocesan Center (previous buildings on site)

320 Cathedral Street

Sanborn Maps



Baltimore Metrocenter Survey
Cathedral Hill Area
Archdiocesan Center
320 Cathedral Street
B-2141



Archdiocesan Center B-2141
320 Cathedral Street
Cathedral Hill - Metrocenter Survey
Baltimore (City), Maryland
Photo: Janet Davis
Date: August 1984
Neg. loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
Northeast corner view

MAG1#0421415811

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM
for the
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME				
COMMON:				
Catholic Archdiocese		320 Cathedral Street		
AND/OR HISTORIC:				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
320 Cathedral Street				
CITY OR TOWN:				
Baltimore				
STATE			COUNTY:	
Maryland			Baltimore	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input type="checkbox"/> Public Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC				
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No				
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific _____				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME:				
Roman Catholic Archbishop of Baltimore				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
320 Cathedral Street				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Baltimore			Maryland	
			21201	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:				
Records Office				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
Baltimore City Courthouse				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Baltimore			Maryland	
			21202	
Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #):				
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY:				
Baltimore City Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:				
Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
Room 900 26 South Calvert Street				
CITY OR TOWN:			STATE:	
Baltimore			Maryland	
			21202	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Catholic Archdiocesan building on the corner of Cathedral and West Mulberry Streets is an example of the spread of modernism in downtown Baltimore. It stands in strong contrast to the adjacent, religiously related, Catholic Cathedral (the Basilica of the Assumption). The opposition of the formal classicism of the Roman Catholic Cathedral to the diametrically opposed strict modernism of the Archdiocesan building enhances the architectural interest of each edifice.

The angular treatment of space, the strong sense of verticalism, and the sleek material of the facade make the Archdiocesan building an outstanding example of the new functional approach to architecture. Historicism is completely absent in its design. There are no symbolic details or reiterations of classical elements to detract from its essence of functionalism. This building is related to the structures of Frank Lloyd Wright and his adherence to the dictates of construction and function, whereas the Cathedral is descended from ancient Greco-Roman antecedents.

The strong, forceful angularity of the Archdiocesan is emphasized by the clean-cut, black outline of the metal framed windows and the visible seams of the rectangular polished granite panels on the first storey and the lighter toned limestone panels on the upper stories. The vertical strips of windows and curtain wall panels rise smoothly from the dark stability of the first storey. The strong outlines of the windows, the panels and the sharp, dark edges of the first storey give an almost two-dimensional appearance to the structure and heighten its impression of weightlessness.

The use of modern materials and methods is apparent in the curtain wall construction. The slender stone-faced first storey columns could not have been possible at the time of the construction of the neighboring buildings in the block. The steel columns which make this construction possible were not in use until the end of the nineteenth-century. The absence of window lintels and sills is another example of modern construction methods made possible by the steel frame.

In contrast to its neighbors, this building, in lieu of many brick chimneys, has a dominant mechanical penthouse, another result of technological change.

The numerous windows and the strong horizontal bands above the first storey and roof top are reminiscent of Walter Gropius' world-famous Bauhaus at Dessau, c.1925-26. The Archdiocesan is stylistically related to such modern structures as the Bauhaus and as such might be labeled an example of Modern Classicism in the city of Baltimore.

Louise K. Lantz

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Archdiocesan building is worthy of preservation as an attractive embodiment of twentieth-century geometrical and cubic design.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

133'4" x 150"4 7/8"

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: M. Bowie, L. Kantz, A. Kilduff, M. Koontz, L. MacClintock		
ORGANIZATION Commission for Hist. and Arch. Preservation	DATE 12/1/75	
STREET AND NUMBER: Room 900 26 South Calvert Street		
CITY OR TOWN: Baltimore	STATE Maryland	21202

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

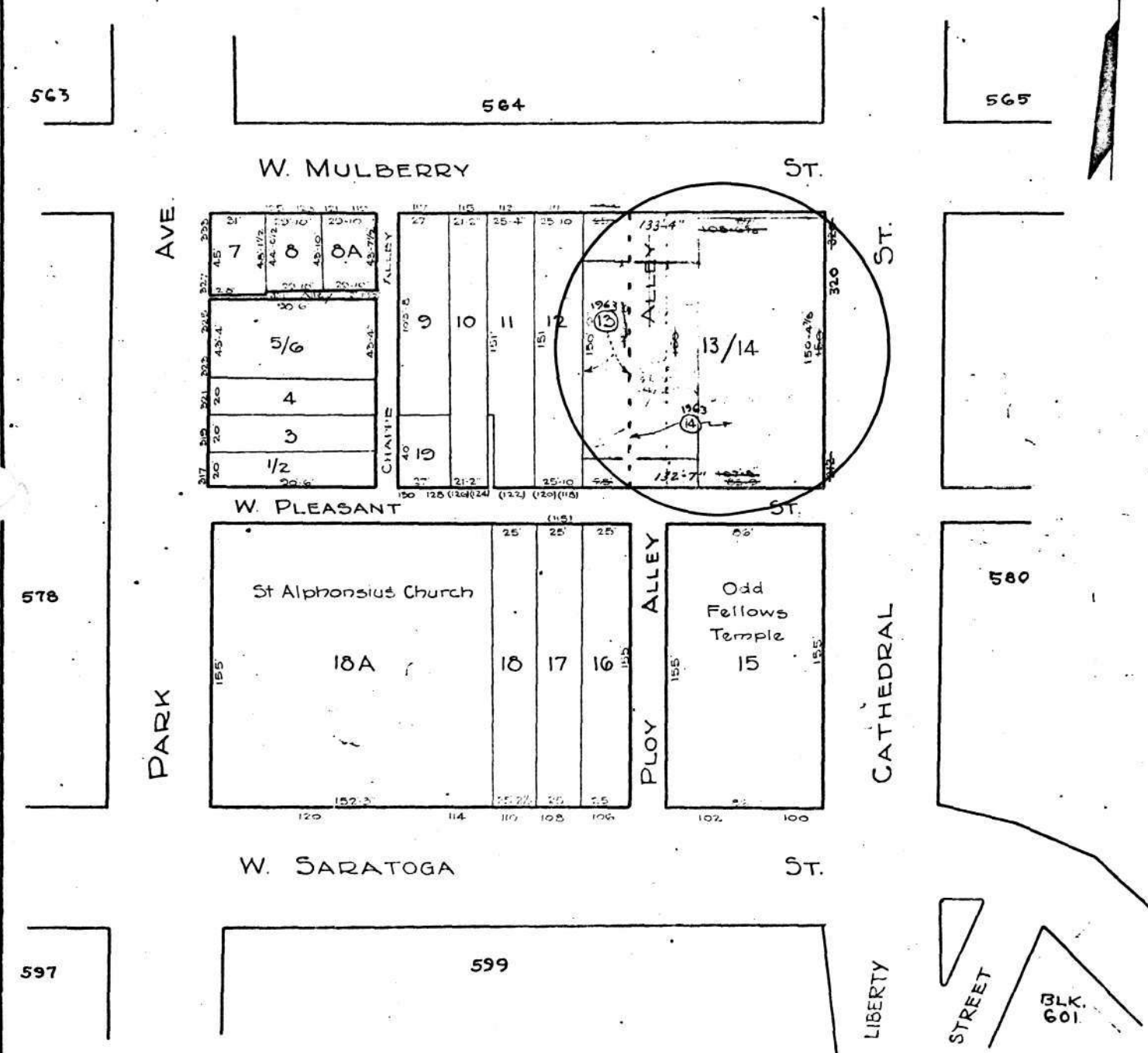
Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature _____

REVISIONS:
 Dmpt of Public Works, City of Baltimore
 Date 11/14/1957, C. S. H. C. S. H. 9/15/57

B-2141



NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED
 FOR UNDER ARTICLE 71 OF THE CITY CHARTER.
 IT IS COMPILED FROM A TITLE AND UNDER
 SOURCE, AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 BUREAU OF PLANS & SURVEYS
 PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 4 SECTION 2
 BLOCK 579

W. M. Moorehead

LETTERED BY W. M. Moorehead

REVISIONS BY W. M. Moorehead





Catholic Archdiocesan
320 Cathedral Street

4-2-579-13/14

10/26/75 - Louise Lantz